

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SS-20 SP-03 L-03 H-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 CIEP-02 PC-10

DRC-01 IO-14 /148 W

----- 089929

R 091000Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7943

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 937

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FOR JOINT STATE/AID ACTION

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, XA, US

SUBJECT: SELF-HELP FUNDING FOR FY-75

REF: STATE 84744

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED. LOCAL PROCUREMENT COSTS FOR MATERIALS USED FOR SELF-HELP PROJECTS HAVE INCREASED BY ONE-THIRD IN PAST SIX MONTHS AND FURTHER INCREASE IS LIKELY. SELF-HELP IS VALUABLE PROGRAM WHICH IS ESPECIALLY WELL-ADAPTED TO LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MOST OF WHICH ARE IN AFRICA. IN ORDER PREVENT SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN NUMBER/SIZE OF PROJECTS WHICH CAN BE FUNDED, STRONGLY RECOMMEND SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN SELF-HELP FUNDS FOR FY-75. IN ADDITION, DUE SEASONAL FACTORS, RECOMMEND MAXIMUM POSSIBLE PORTION BE MADE AVAILABLE DURING FIRST QUARTER.

2. SELF-HELP FUNDS PROVIDE VALUABLE ELEMENT OF US PRESENCE IN UPPER VOLTA AND ASSUME SAME IS TRUE FOR MOST OF OTHER SMALL POSTS RECEIVING SELF-HELP FUNDS. MICRO-PROJECTS FUNDED INVOLVE GENUINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MOST OF IT IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD. SELF-HELP DEVELOPMENTAL BENEFIT DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MAY WELL BE GREATER THAN THAT FROM MONEY SPENT ON EXPERTS AND LARGE PROJECTS. IN ADDITION PURELY ECONOMIC VALUE, HIGH VISIBILITY AND HIGH LOCAL INTEREST IN SELF-HELP ACTIVITIES PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT INTANGIBLE BENEFITS.

3. SELF-HELP IS EXCEPTIONALLY BENEFICIAL IN LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LIKE UPPER VOLTA BECAUSE IT IS WELL-ADJUSTED TO HOST COUNTRIES' OWN INTERESTS AND CAPABILITIES (IN KEEPING WITH AID POLICY DETERMINATION OF 1/12/73 ON "AID AND THE RELATIVELY LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES"). IT IS IN THESE EXTREMELY POOR COUNTRIES, AS CONTRACTED WITH THOSE HIGHER UP THE LADDER, THAT SELF-HELP SIZE PROJECTS CAN HAVE MAXIMUM IMPACT.

4. MATERIALS COSTS ARE UP AT LEAST 33 PERCENT SINCE
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LAST YEAR AND A RECENT QUOTE FOR HARDWARE AVERAGED 44 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR. HENCE IF SELF-HELP FUNDING IS NOT INCREASED FOR FY-75, PHYSICAL SIZE/NUMBER OF PROJECTS WILL HAVE TO DECLINE BY AT LEAST ONE-THIRD. THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY INCREASE SELF-HELP EFFICIENCY BY CHANGING METHODS, SINCE THESE ARE ALREADY AT BARE BONES. FOR EXAMPLE, WE DO NOT EVEN PROVIDE CEMENT BLOCKS FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION; EMBASSY PROVIDES

CEMENT, WITH WHICH LOCAL PEOPLE MAKE THEIR OWN CEMENT
BLOCKS WITH WHICH TO BUILD.

5. HENCE COUNTRY TEAM STRONGLY URGES DEPARTMENT AND
AID/W SEEK PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN AFRICA-WIDE
FUNDING TOTAL FOR SELF-HELP FOR FY-75. IN ADDITION,
SUGGEST HALF OR TWO-THIRDS OF FUNDS BE MADE AVAILABLE
IN FIRST QUARTER; TIMING OF RAINY SEASON MAKES THAT
OPTIMUM PROJECT START TIME HERE AND ASSUME EARLY
RECEIPT OF FUNDS WOULD FACILITATE PLANNING AT ALL
POSTS. BULLEN

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